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N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

LORELIE J. SAKDALAN, RN License No. 26NR13014900

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of a medical malpractice payment report indicating that a \$2,725,000 settlement was paid on behalf of Lorelie J. Sakdalan, RN ("Respondent") regarding a January 26, 2009 incident.

Respondent, who had received her license to practice nursing one year and eight months prior to the incident (on April 2, 2007), was working in an emergency department and was assigned a patient who had reportedly attempted suicide by overdosing on drugs and alcohol and jumping in an outdoor pool

in 10° Fahrenheit weather. The patient arrived at the hospital in an agitated, belligerent, and uncooperative state. He was medicated to calm him down, restrained, and placed in a secure area. He was not placed on a cardiac monitor or a monitoring device for oxygenation (pulse oximeter). Respondent failed to document the use or monitoring of restraints.

Shortly after his arrival, the patient's wife telephoned and told Respondent that the patient used a CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) machine at night. Respondent arranged to have the patient moved to another area where he could be monitored and utilize a CPAP. After the patient was moved, Respondent left the patient for 5-10 minutes and when she returned, she found him unresponsive. Respondent had never placed the patient on any cardiac, oxygenation, or CPAP monitor. The patient was resuscitated, but left in a permanent, semi-vegetative state.

The Board finds that based upon the patient's history of possible drug use, alcohol use, and hypothermia, assessment of the patient's oxygen levels and cardiac activity was essential. By failing to place the patient on the appropriate monitors, Respondent failed to adequately assess the patient and engaged in gross negligence which damaged or endangered the life of a person within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c).

The Board having reviewed this matter, and having

considered the nature and timing (nine years ago) of the above conduct, and the parties desiring to resolve this matter, and the Board having determined that the within Order is sufficiently protective of the public health, safety and welfare, in lieu of further proceedings, and for other good cause shown;

- 1. Respondent's license to practice nursing shall be suspended for two years, which suspension shall be stayed and served as a period of probation. The two year period shall be deemed retroactively served and completed.
- 2. Respondent is hereby reprimanded for having engaged in gross negligence as detailed above pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(c).
- 3. Respondent shall, within three months of the filing of this Order, provide proof of successful completion of Boardapproved courses in:
 - a) critical assessment with a clinical component, and
 - b) documentation.

Respondent shall obtain approval from the Board of any course she proposes to take prior to enrollment therein. These courses shall be in addition to the 30 hours of continuing education required for license renewal and shall not be used towards

fulfillment of continuing education requirements.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN

Board President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms.

Lorelie J. Sakdalan, RN License #26NR13014900